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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bonnert, T.P.

Serial No.: 09/445,614

Filed: December 8, 1999

For: HUMAN VANILLOID RECEPTOR-LIKE RECEPTOR

Group Art Unit: 1646

Examiner: Michael T. Brannock

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**REQUEST FOR STATUS**

Sir:

Six months have passed since an Office Communication stating that the pending claims are allowable but that ex parte prosecution would be suspended for 6 months because of a potential interference (See Communication mailed from USPTO on July 8, 2004). Applicants request that the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) insert below the status information requested and return this letter. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed for the PTO record.

Respectfully submitted,

**I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date appearing below.**

**MERCK & CO., INC.**  
By Donielle T. M... Date 1-12-05

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Date: 1/12/2005

1. An interference (will) be declared \_\_\_\_\_;
2. An interference (will not) be declared \_\_\_\_\_;
3. The claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowability can be expected on or about \_\_\_\_\_; or
4. Official Action on this application can be expected on or about \_\_\_\_\_.

(In Duplicate)